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UP FRONT

Christmas Eve house fire devastating for the local family who escaped the flames.....Page 2

SHARING THE WARMTH

Warm wishes from the community decked a trio of trees with mittens and more.....Page 5

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HIGH FIVE FOR SANTA - A Heinsburg kindergarten student gives Santa a big 'high five' after receiving her gift at the Dec. 21 Christmas Concert. More photos, Page 3.

Photo submitted

Looking back at a challenging year

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

It's a new year, with many changes and challenges on the horizon. We never really know what a new year will bring, what new developments and innovations will affect our lives and how we will cope with those changes.

Last year also brought our community, and the rest of Alberta, a long list of challenges to cope with, but there were also positives to celebrate in 2016.

Let's take a look at the year just past...

January

Goalie Colton 'Colt 45' Van Maaron started the year with a shutout when the Elk Point Bantam Avalanche took on Saddle Lake. Lena Stepa was one of seven Royal Purple members honoured for long service when she received her 45-year pin as well as recognition for 39 years of perfect attendance.

(Continued on Page 8)

Sixth Annual 2nd Chance Trail Ride 'heading west'

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

After five years of traveling the Iron Horse Trail between Lindbergh and Heinsburg, the 2nd Chance Trail Ride for organ and tissue donation awareness is changing up their route, says Cathy Ockerman, a member of the ride's organizing committee.

"We're heading west."

This year's ride, slated for Saturday, May 13, will still travel the Iron Horse Trail, but this time in the opposite direction, going from Lindbergh to Elk Point, with the supper, program and dance held at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre, where the focus will once again be on raising funds to assist the GoodHearts Foundation to support organ and tissue transplant patients.

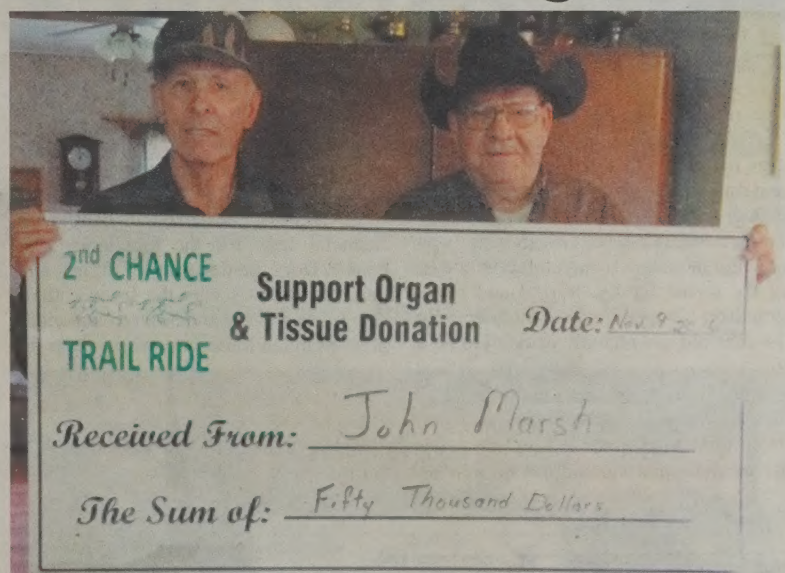
This decision to change the venue was made with "a heavy heart," but last year's huge turnout had Heinsburg Community Hall bulging at the seams, and with kitchen upgrades underway at

that facility, it seemed time to try out a new location, Ockerman says. "This is not necessarily a permanent change, we may alternate locations," she notes.

The new venue has "a lot of positives," Ockerman says. There is ample parking for teams, horse trailers and campers at the nearby C. G. Baker Arena, and motels and a full-series campground nearby for those requiring alternate accommodation, along with a 'people mover' shuttle between both campgrounds and the Leisure Centre. She feels these options may bring renewed interest in the Ride, and "More awareness - that's our mandate."

Awareness is key, but Ockerman's mother, Fae Irvine, says that five years after she, her double lung transplant recipient husband Morris and their family hosted the first ride, "There are still people who don't know we exist. We did the parade in Bonnyville and there were people who didn't know what 2nd Chance was all about."

(Continued on Page 2)



GENEROUS DONOR John Marsh recently presented Morris Irvine with a massive \$50,000 donation to the 2nd Chance Trail Ride to support organ and tissue recipients as they receive a second chance at life.

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Fundraising underway for family, pets who escape Christmas Eve house fire

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Terri Castle was working in a shed near her home in Elk Point, putting the finishing touches on the snowboards she got her kids for Christmas, when she heard her 10-year-old son Ethan screaming from the nearby house.

It was just passed midnight on Dec. 24 when a fire broke out in the basement of the home, causing damage to many of the family's belongings. Both Ethan and Castle's cousin, Jody, were sleeping in the home at the time of the fire.

"I went running to the house to find Jody was still downstairs where the smoke was so thick I couldn't see to the bottom of the stairs," recalls Castle. "I called Jody to get upstairs, and I could hear him, but I couldn't understand what he was saying, so I yelled at him to get upstairs or I would come down after him."

Jody staggered up the stairs, covered in soot and smoke. His feet, hands and face had some burns, and he was having a hard time breathing, recalls Castle.

"I grabbed the phone and called 911, and started rifling the Christmas gifts sitting packed up by the door outside. Then I got Ethan and Jody out to the shed," says Castle, who then decided to go back into the house for the family's three cats.

"My cousin's cat bolted outside as soon as I opened the door, then I found one of the kittens under my bed. I headed for the door to find Ethan back in the house coming for the kittens," says Castle. After sending her son back to the shed with the one kitten, she went back to look for the other.

"I couldn't find him, so I started throwing blankets and coats out the bedroom window. The smoke started to get really thick and Jody was now screaming at me

to get out. I could still hear the kitten, but the smoke was too much for me to breath so I crawled out the window where Jody was standing, I wrapped my arms around his neck and he pulled me out."

At this point, two members of the Elk Point Fire Department arrived on scene. When the one member opened the door, Meatball the kitten was near the door crying, but wouldn't move. Castle reached in and the scared animal bolted for the shed where Ethan was covered up in the blankets that had been thrown out the window.

The family went to the local hospital, where Jody was treated due to smoke inhalation. When the family returned to the house, they were allowed back in to grab a few necessities from upstairs, where the fire hadn't caused as much damage.

Castle returned again on Boxing Day. She found everything in the bedroom where her cousin was had been destroyed, and the fire had reached her other son's bedroom, destroying his suit and his bed, and the wall of movies that the family had been collecting over the years.

"My deep freeze was melted into itself, and my treadmill was melted as well. When I talked to my landlady, she informed me the fire department had to return on Christmas Eve after we left to douse the smouldering embers, as it was getting really hot again," says Castle.

At this point, Castle is unsure of what the family will be able to salvage since there appears to be a lot of smoke damage throughout the house.

"Everything is covered in soot or smoke." Castle says she didn't have contents insurance, so it will be a huge loss to the family.

But, Castle is also thankful that her other son, Christian, was already in Edmonton at his brother's

place with the family dog, and her daughter was also in Edmonton, since she is currently attending MacEwan University. Right now, Castle and Ethan are also in Edmonton, although the family was planning on coming back to Elk Point for a hockey game on Friday.

"Christian plays for the Elk Point Avalanche Midgets, and we have a game on Friday and I'm scheduled to work in the booth. So we will be there, although I'm not sure about his hockey gear. I know one stick is burned and I don't know if the integrity of his safety equipment has been compromised," says Castle.

Thankfully, earlier in 2016 Elk Point native and Edmonton Oiler Mark Letestu brought the A. G. Ross Arena 14 full sets of hockey equipment donated by the NHL Players' Association for use by the minor hockey association. Castle confirmed that her son would be using the "Letestu Locker" for the needed equipment in order to hit the ice with his teammates.

A Go Fund Me page has been set up at <https://www.gofundme.com/terri-castle-christmas-eve-fire> to help the family with financial costs associated with the fire.

It would not be surprising to find generous support coming from the community. Early last May, Castle was one of the hardworking volunteers who pitched in to gather, pack and transport loads of donations from Elk Point and area to the evacuation centers set up to assist victims of the Fort McMurray wildfire. She even spent much of her Mother's Day sorting donations in a donated storage locker, and helped to search out special items on the list of evacuees' requirements.

In an *Elk Point Review* story that week, she said, "My heart is heavy with sadness and compassion for all they are going through... I just can't imagine the loss they are feeling."

Sadly, that reality has now hit home.

2nd Chance

(Continued from Front Page)

"People don't have it on their radar until the need for an organ transplant hits close to home."

The 2nd Chance wagon took part in a total of eight parades this year, including St. Paul, Vermilion, Glendon, Lloydminster and both the Canada Day and Christmas Extravaganza parades in Elk Point.

Signs are also part of the awareness campaign, with the latest addition to that lineup to be installed at the Mount Joy Ski Hill near Lloydminster. The signs urge the public to sign their donor cards and potentially save someone else's life if their own is lost.

A new wave of awareness was recently launched by a younger member of the Irvine family, Morris and Fae's grandson Cooper Pirtle. Daughter Arla 14-year-old son recently decided to do a

community ambassador project on organ donation and has been hanging posters in Sturgeon County communities, setting up information tables at hockey arenas and curling rinks and giving a presentation at his school on the importance of organ and tissue donation. Now he has designed a Tim Horton's coffee cup with an organ donation ribbon on it, and hopes that company will notice and consider using the cup for Organ Donation Month in April.

Alberta Health Minister Sarah Hoffman has recognized the youth's efforts, saying her department is working to raise awareness, "and I'm so thankful for young people like Cooper, stepping up to help raise awareness as well."

Awareness goes hand in hand with financial help for the recipients who benefit from the donation of organs and tissue, and that's why the Irvines, their six children, 23 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren are knee deep in

preparations for this year's trail ride, along with a growing contingent of volunteers. Starting with four recipients who received transplants around the same time as Irvine, organ and tissue recipients often show their gratitude for the financial help they've received and some make a point in taking part in the Ride activities. "What's really good is that most of the recipients want to come back and help us," the mother-daughter duo says. "We have new people on the board all the time," with some coming from as far away as Taber, Saskatoon and Spruce Grove.

Along with donations to 2nd Chance made throughout the year, funds raised at the Trail Ride and its live and silent auctions are used to assist the GoodHearts Foundation to provide furnished apartments for the recipients close to the hospital, as well as in smaller ways, such as purchasing a treadmill for the recipients' use and providing 20 prepaid \$100 credit cards for the social workers

to include in the patients' Christmas baskets to assist them with expenses ranging from parking to gasoline.

Help comes from many directions to assist transplant recipients, including a quilting group's recent donation of 20 lap quilts bearing the 2nd Chance logo, along with substantial help for the Trail Ride committee. This year again, Jonny's Electrical and other partners will be providing lunch midway along the trail and Prairie Tech will supply participants with bus transportation back to their vehicles. The Elks Lodge and Elk Point Lions are once again on board to help out with parking and traffic control, as are Victim Services personnel from both St. Paul and Elk Point. Shirley's Catering will again be preparing the supper, "and we only have to pay for the non-donated food; we're very fortunate," the ladies say, adding that tickets for the dinner will be presold in April.



Members of St. Paul Elks Lodge #465 proudly presented a \$1,000 to 2nd Chance Trail Ride on behalf of the Alberta Elks Foundation.

ROCK kicks off fundraising for community projects

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The ROCK (Reclaiming Our Complex Kids) Foundation is not-for-profit organization with the goal of partnering with other community groups to create, assist with or enhance community projects. The vision is to have resources and activities available in the community that are accessible to all youth. It is ROCK's belief that if our young people have healthy connections to community groups and projects that they will feel invested in the community and be less likely to engage in at-risk activities.

"We held a meeting in November with other community groups to discuss the possibility of working together on larger projects in the future," ROCK's Tessa Pankiw said. The larger group

will meet again in the New Year. One project on ROCK's wish list is an outdoor fitness park, although, she says, "we are a far ways from reaching our financial goal. However, there are a number of matching grants available from the province that we qualify for." The town has allocated a space near the spray park for the project, she said.

Matching grants require fundraising, and a pair of fundraisers has been scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14, both hosted by local artist Shirley Kinneberg. The first is a Youth Art Workshop for ages 10 to 17, from 1 to 4 p.m., while the adults will have their turn to enjoy a Paint Night that evening, starting at 7 p.m. Both events will be held at Elk Point Further Education. Contact Kinneberg at 780-724-3678 or Pankiw at 780-645-9799 for further details.

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Presented By The Rock Foundation

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Youth Age 10 - 17

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Christmas comes to Heinsburg Community School

CELEBRATING SANTA - Heinsburg Community School's Kindergarten class was dressed in tall red hats and fluffy beards as they presented their rousing version of 'S-A-N-T-A is His Name-o!' to delight the Christmas Concert audience.

Photos submitted



CHRISTMAS PAJAMAS - Santa came to Heinsburg School on Pajama Day, with this Grade One student excited about her gift.



Fox passes on credit for light display

REVIEW STAFF

Myrna Fox has advised us of an error in our report on the Christmas Lighting and Decorating Contest, and says, "It was so nice to see my Mother remembered in the pictures for the home decorating but I do not deserve any credit this year - the beautiful decorating was done by Davor and Garona Matanovic who live in Mother's home. I was so pleased that they were amongst the winners."

START HEALTHY. STAY HEALTHY.

Alberta's influenza immunization program is ongoing. Influenza immunization is offered, free of charge, to all Albertans six months of age and older.

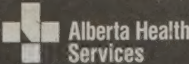
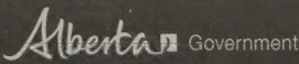
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Monday, January 9 Monday, January 16 Monday, January 23 Monday, January 30	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	St. Paul Community Health Services 5610 50 Avenue St. Paul
Monday to Friday February 6 to 10 Monday to Friday February 13 to 17	8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	

Please bring Alberta Health Care Card. Short sleeves recommended.

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EDITORIAL

Predictions?

Here we go again, with predictions for yet another new year. Last year, we were cautiously optimistic that oil prices would edge up, and they have done that. People learned to cope with less income, they gardened more and spent more time outdoors with their families. And amazingly, the EcoCentre's outdoor access washroom finally was complete.

This year is Canada's 150th birthday, so we will all learn what 'Sesquicentennial' means as we prepare for the biggest birthday bash since Elk Point's centennial. We will probably have to be creative on this one, as there aren't likely to be big corporate donations pouring in, but if all the community groups get involved, we can make it a day that will still be remembered by the time of Canada's Bicentennial in 2067.

It's basically impossible to predict what will happen south of the border when their new president takes office in a couple of weeks, but we are sure there will be big changes, and many of them will affect Canada.

Here in Alberta, the quest for a new PC leader will reawaken interest and hopefully bring a positive change to the political scene.

Locally, the walking trail upgrade will continue, to the delight of local fitness enthusiasts, and the ROCK Foundation will rally the troops and get things going on an outdoor fitness area - what a great Sesquicentennial project that would be!

All the best in 2017, Elk Point and area!

RECREATION CORNER

Grant info session date set

recreation@elkpoint.ca

Review Contributor

In case you missed it, the Town of Elk Point Council has decided to extend the Community Grant Funding applications to March 15th, allowing more time for non-profits and community organizations to get their financial paperwork in order.

The Town has also employed the help of the County of St Paul's grant master, Kyle Attanasio to help us, help you tap into funds available through the Alberta Government and the Alberta Lottery Fund. We will be co-hosting an information session on February 8th. Time and location to be announced, so be sure to check out your weekly Rec Corner.



We're going to have a lot of fun in 2017 with the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday. I would like to invite anyone interested in helping the celebrations to the next Canada Day meeting, on January 17th at 6 p.m. at Council Chambers. We're always looking for volunteers and there are opportunities for non-profits and community groups to make some money by helping volunteer at certain events.

Mark your calendars for the first Town event of 2017, February 20th. Family Day free skate and Minor Hockey All-Star Game. This was such a huge hit last year, we'll be bringing it back! See you all at the rink!

WAY BACK WHEN...

Last picture show, First Night, outstanding volunteer award

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 3 IN...

1986

Elk Point area residents viewed the last picture show at Steve Andrishak closed his Arrow Theatre after 42 years of entertaining the public. Don and Sylvia Conrad placed first in the residential lighting and decorating contest sponsored by the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce.

1991

Vicki and Phil Sheplaw were presented with their Small Business of the Year award at the final Chamber of Commerce meeting of the year by president Victor Stepa. More than 52,000 hours of dedicated practice brought Shauna Loughran the Canadian Figure Skating Association Gold Figure status.

1996

Five venues were on the schedule for activities at Elk Point's Third Annual First Night Festival. Elk Point Agricultural Society vowed to start the new year right with a meeting set for early January to iron out problems left unresolved at a poorly attended annual meeting.

2001

Retiring teacher Ron Onusko was honoured at F. G. Miller High School's Christmas brunch, after more than 25 years of teaching at the school. Performers of all ages took part in Elk Point Christian Community Church's Christmas program.

2006

A totally unsuspecting F. G. Miller principal Laverne Wilson was on the gift list at the school's Christmas brunch, with Murray Cochrane presenting

him with Baseball Alberta's plaque for outstanding volunteer service. Margarret Gladue of Frog Lake was the winner of the plasma television and home theatre package from the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Extravaganza.

2011

Elk Point town council held their final meeting of 2011 setting in place plans for the coming year and determining the price of their new serviced industrial subdivision lots at \$90,000.



Town Council and staff gave their final farewell to Larry Lecopoy, as he retired from 38 years on the Elk Point Public Works crew, with Public Works Superintendent Jay Duffee presenting him with not only a certificate of appreciation but also a chunk of the grader blade and a tooth from the backhoe as souvenirs of his longtime position.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Vicki Brooker
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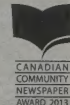
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Warmest wishes

Elk Point's financial institutions played a vital role in this year's Trees of Warmth campaign, coordinated by Elk Point Christian Community Church. All three trees were adorned with generous donations of hats, mitts, toques, scarves and socks by their customers and their staffs, well before last Friday's collection day. This year, all the items collected will go to those who need a little help to keep warm right here in Elk Point and district, and the staff of all three institutions are grateful for your help in making this happen.

At top left are the Team Canada fans at Servus Credit Union, left to right: Jennifer Dallaire, Lorrie O'Reilly, Marcy Maltais, Jennifer Jurak and Deena Smith.

Below left, TD Canada Trust's Lorry Fleming and branch manager Oralee Williams admire their well-dressed tree.

Below, ATB Financial's Erin Smith and branch manager Carla Ganske were thrilled to have a number of handmade items among the donations hung on their tree.



Beautiful Babies of 2016



**ELLIE JEAN
SLYWKA**

Date of Birth: March 23, 2016
Weight: 6 lbs. 7.5 oz.
Height: 20"

*Daughter of Tyson Slywka &
Skye Dion-McFeeters*



**MICHAEL
RUSSELL LAWRENCE
KILLAM**

Date of Birth: Jan. 10, 2016
Weight: 7 lbs. 14 oz.
Height: 20"

*Son of
Matthew & Brenda Killam*



**LENNYN
TRACY-ROSE
LOUGHRAN**

Date of Birth: Nov. 10, 2016
Weight: 6 lbs. 1 oz.
Height: 19"

*Daughter of Dylon Loughran &
Jenna George*



**AURORA JANE
VAN DER HOEK**

Date of Birth: March 9, 2016
Weight: 6 lbs. 13 oz.
Height: 19"

*Daughter of
Michael & Jennifer
Van der Hoek*



Myrna Fox of the Elk Point Healthcare Auxiliary was delighted to present one of two Dr. Anne Wiegerinck Scholarships for 2016 to F. G. Miller graduate Alyssa Harms. Fox noted that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Auxiliary, which has been happy to assist the facility and its patients with donations of equipment and smaller items through the years.

Dr. Anne Wiegerinck Scholarship recipients

The Dr. Anne Wiegerinck Scholarships are presented annually to F. G. Miller High School students entering post-secondary studies in the field of medicine.



Rosie Sam accepted the financial assistance portion of her scholarship from Myrna Fox during the Christmas break, after receiving the accompanying certificate during the graduation ceremonies. In the background is the Auxiliary's canteen, operated by Auxiliary volunteers for the convenience of patients and their visitors.

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Viewing: Jan. 7-8 & Jan. 16-17 ... 1pm - 4 p.m.
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OBITUARY

TURNER, Donald



On December 23, 2016, Mr. Donald Turner of Elk Point passed away at the age of 69 years. He is survived by his children, Joe Poirier of Comox, B.C., Billy Turner of Edmonton, Terri Turner of Lloydminster & Donald (Amber) Jr. Turner of Edmonton; 5 grandchildren & 1 on the way, Avery, Ashton, Jasmine, Malia & Tommy; sister, Lynn (Ted) Piraux of Calgary; brother, Ken Turner of Elk Point; brother-in-law, Byron Thrasher; sisters-in-law, Eunice Thrasher, Florence Raddi, & Lucy Ann Thrasher; numerous nieces & nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Kathy; parents, Fred & Jemima Turner; 2 brothers, Allen & Ron; sister, Darlene Roth. A Funeral Service was held on Friday, December 30 at 10:00 a.m. at Elk Point Seniors Centre, Elk Point. Pastor Kelly Sibley officiated, with interment in Elk Point West Cemetery, Elk Point. To send condolences online, please visit www.gracegardensfuneralchapel.com.

GRACE GARDENS FUNERAL CHAPEL
5626 - 51 Street
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A1
780-645-2677

Governor General David Johnston's New Year's message

OTTAWA,- Happy New Year, Canada, and happy sesqui-centennial! What an occasion: the 150th anniversary of our Canadian family!
This year we celebrate, and we stand at a threshold. We have a rare, once-in-a-generation opportunity to think about Canada, and to look to the future.
We have a chance to reflect, to reaffirm, to look ahead and say: We love this country. We've come so far. Let's make it even better. And that's just what we'll do.
Canadians see this year as a chance to make a difference - to continue to build this country.
To all of you: Thank you for answering the call. Thank you for helping us seize this moment. Thank you for continuing the work of building Canada!
One hundred and fifty years ago, we began a great experiment. We called it Canada. The premise was that diverse peoples can live and work together in a spirit of respect, compromise and common cause.
One hundred years later, in 1967, Canadians celebrated with a renewed outpouring of enthusiasm and nation-building.
Today, we continue to benefit from the legacies of Confederation and of our centennial.
And while not perfect, our Canadian experiment continues.

This year, I believe our legacy will be to innovate, to improve upon our inheritance, to make this country even better.
We're so fortunate to live in Canada, but there's so much more work to do.
Let's ensure this is a country of both excellence and equality of opportunity for all. Let's work towards achieving reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples. Let's continue to celebrate diversity. It's a strength, one that has allowed us to build a society that is the envy of the world.
Besides our 150th, we're marking many milestones this year:
■ The 375th anniversary of Montréal;
■ The 125th anniversary of the Stanley Cup;
■ And the 50th anniversary of the Order of Canada!
"They desire a better country" - that's the motto of the Order of Canada. In fact, it could be the unofficial motto of Canada this year! We all desire a better country.
This year, we have a rare chance to shape it. A historic chance. So let's work together. Let's celebrate, and let's keep building Canada.
Sharon and I wish you and your loved ones a very happy new year.

David Johnston

Little Known Fact...
Four out of five Paleontologists agree: Dinosaurs became extinct because they forgot to advertise in their community newspaper!
Get your business off the endangered species list!

Advertise today!
Call 780-724-4087 for more information.

Looking back at the challenging year of 2016

(Continued from Front Page)

Elk Point Elks may have lost their first game of 2016 to the Kitscoty Monarchs, but a rematch a week later saw the Elks trounce the visitors 7 to 2. Elk Point Chamber of Commerce set the date for their annual meeting, with one major item on the AGM agenda being a bylaw addition that would allow the chamber to borrow money.

Town council waded through a stack of 14 applications for Municipal Sustainability Initiative operating grants from non-profit groups that totaled more than \$103,000, with five groups given half of the amounts they requested and three others receiving between 20 and 40 percent of their requests. Canadian Natural Resources Limited provided substantial financial assistance, to the tune of \$14,575.07, to the Elk Point Skating Club, whose volunteers assisted CNRL with fundraising.

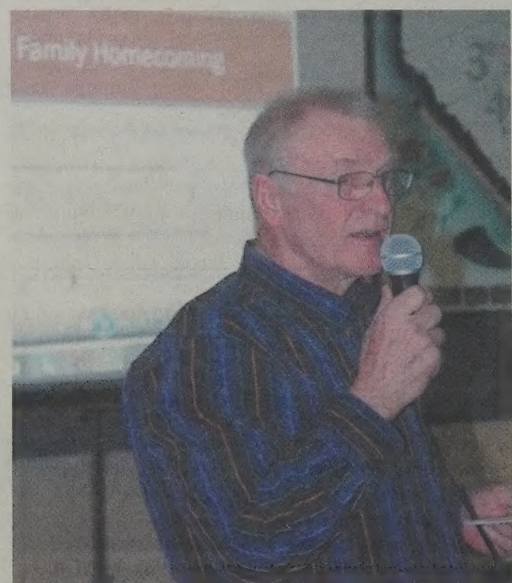
Elk Point Ukrainian Dance Club celebrated their 37th year at Malanka, where their "Memories" storyline was a very fitting tribute to the history of the club. The Interagency Health and Wellness Committee started off the new year with good news, that recruitment for a third doctor was going well, with both local doctors engaged in the process and ready to share their case loads and on-call duties.

February

Town council was able to wrap up their final report on grant funding used to construct the Visitor Information EcoCentre with all grant funding matched and the facility being well used, however it was necessary to ask for an extension on grant funding for the walking trail. Groundhog or not, residents and businesses were urged to keep their shovels handy to comply with sidewalk clearing regulations in case of a snowfall.

Elk Point Midget Avalanche was off to provincials, after winning a two-game, total-point series over Smoky Lake. Elk Point 4-H clubs held back-to-back public speaking competitions, with Shaylyn Klatt, Carson Vogel, Nolan Vogel, Darianna Boorse and Morgan Evans advancing to district competition from the Multi Club and Lexi Wirsta, Macey Ann Marcoux and sisters Ashley and Nicole Bristow advancing from the Beef Club.

Recreation topped the town council agenda, including a visit from new Elk Point Golf and Country Club president Don Schultz, who said the club had ambitious plans for cleaning up deadfall, extending cart paths and keeping the driving range in shape. Roof repairs were underway at Elk Point Healthcare Centre, with completion slated for early spring.



ALBERT BORATYNEĆ played a key role when A. G. Ross Arena drew the largest crowd ever as generations of the "Arena family" gathered on Family Day to salute the vision and determination of the community leaders of the early 1970s who made the facility a reality.

Seniors Nicole and Ashley Bristow and junior Darianna Boorse came home from 4-H District Communications competition with second prizes in the presentation section.

March

Seven was a lucky number for the Elk Point Oilmen's Bonspiel champion Leonard Gadowski, who took seven years and a few close calls to claim his seventh Grand Championship in the seventh end, skipping the Shamrock Valley Enterprises rink. Elk Point Oilmen's Oilman of the Year still calls Elk Point 'home,' even though Danny Povaschuk has lived in

Hanna for more than a decade.

A record number of 90 vintage snowmobiles took advantage of a warm, sunny morning to take part in the Elk Point TrailRiders annual show and shine, followed by a trail ride to Kehewin Lake. His demise was only the beginning of the adventures for the "Lucky Stiff" played by John Sieben in the Elk Point Community Choir's well-attended dinner theatre series.

Elk Point RCMP got input from the community on policing priorities for the coming year when they hosted a town hall meeting. With both the Midget and Pee wee Avalanche teams stonewalled at provincials, Elk Point had one more chance for a provincial win when the Bantams headed for High Level for the "D" Provincials.

Elk Point was swept back to the days of knights and ladies, not to mention a few small dragons, at the annual Skating Carnival, where this year's presentation was "Quest for Camelot." The time frame was amended on Elk Point's RV parking regulations, which would now allow parking from the Friday of the May long weekend until the Tuesday following the September long weekend, with another change still under consideration that would increase the allowed parking time from 48 to 144 hours.

An "awesome year" for minor hockey was celebrated at Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre, where Kobe Warawa was the recipient of the Alex Kurash Memorial Award. Elk Point Municipal Library Board held their annual meeting, with County Coun. Dwight Dach on hand to present board chair Laverne Wilson with a \$45,000 grant to assist with library operations.

April



EDMONTON OILER MARK LETESTU came home to the A. G. Ross Arena, his second home as an atom and peewee player in the 1990s, for a spring skate with today's minor hockey stars and to present 14 sets of hockey equipment from the NHL Players' Association to 'Letestu's Locker' to ensure children of every age, size and financial situation has the opportunity could enjoy the sport.

Town council checked out their new interactive website and explored ways to spread the word about the community and all it offers.

Fifth graders who were part of the kindergarten classes involved in an Early Development Initiative study a half dozen years earlier had the opportunity to hone their artistic skills on Elk Point's second mural, under the direction Herman Poulin. Elk Point Elks Lodge hosted the District Six Meeting, with visitors from Hairy Hill, Lac La Biche, Myrnam, St. Paul and Bonnyville in attendance.

Volunteering is a way of life for Laverne Wilson, who was honoured for his "Love of the Game" and his love of the community at a community sports fundraiser hosted by Elk Point Minor Hockey and Elk Point Minor Ball. The Town of Elk Point spent most of their meeting dealing with what to spend and how to spend their 'lean' operating budget most wisely.

The County of St. Paul dropped their 2016 residential municipal mill rate and planned for a larger than typical surplus while holding the line on other municipal mill rates, including farmland and non-residential. Thirty-two members of the Elk Point Ukrainian Dance Club performed at their 24th Annual Spring Concert, displaying the skills that won them multiple awards at recent competitions.

May

Orphanage runaway 'Annie Jr.' made an instant bond with an equally lonesome and vocally talented shaggy dog she met in a park as the Elk Point Theatre Project performed their second annual success at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre. The town's spending cuts outweighed an increase in liabilities to reduce the municipality's net debt from \$1,400,197 in 2014 to \$1,269,994 in 2015.

Elk Point pitched in to help evacuees from fire-ravaged Fort McMurray, with Carmen Waselick getting quick response to her Facebook plea for help, with Melissa Skarsen, Terri Castle and numerous other

volunteers spending many hours gathering, sorting and delivering donations. F. G. Miller High School student Megan Phillips was recognized as a 'Great Kid' by the Government of Alberta, along with 15 other young leaders from across the province.

"A perfect day for a trail ride" brought out a new record of 317 participants for the fifth annual 2nd Chance Trail Ride from Lindbergh to Heinsburg, raising awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation and raising funds to assist those fortunate enough to receive a transplant. The Town of Elk Point held the line on mill rates at 2011 levels, with the only change ratepayers would find on their tax bills being the increased Alberta School Foundation Fund levy and increases in assessment.

Kailey Wirsta of Elk Point 4-H Beef Club brought home the Heartland Fuels UFA Reserve Supreme banner for her cow-calf pair from the St. Paul District Invitational Heifer Show at Goodridge. The roofing project at Elk Point Healthcare Centre was complete, with staffing also in good shape, reported facility manager Kristen Pelechok at the Interagency Health and Wellness Committee meeting.

The following week, Kailey Wirsta was back in the 4-H spotlight with her Grand Champion Steer winning the St. Paul and District Co-op's Elk Point Branch, while Heidi Tymko showed the Grand Champion Female. Art and music ventured "Outside the Lines" at F. G. Miller High, with an evening of impressive talent on stage and in the art and industrial art displays.

June

Chrome and colourful paint jobs were everywhere at Elk Point Auto Club's Show and Shine in a 73-entry salute to automotive history.



ELK POINT'S NEW FIVE-PANEL MURAL was unveiled, bringing the results of a 2011 study of kindergarten children to life with the help of painters of all age groups from across the community.

Elk Point 4-H Beef and Multi Clubs celebrated 50 years of 4-H history on Farmers' Day with a supper and displays at Stoney Lake Community Hall with leaders and members from years gone by among those in attendance. The County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS celebrated Seniors' Week with a series of four barbecue lunches facilities across the county.

Town Council unveiled a master plan for a multi-year development of Elk Point's walking trails, with sidewalks replaced on streets and avenues leading to the existing trails, railings installed where needed, trees planted and benches and flower planters put in place. The Town was recognized by Alberta Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council with a Safety Award recognizing 20 years of accreditation.

The school year ended with Awards Day at Elk Point Elementary, where Kobe Warawa was presented with the Grade Six Academic Award from the St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1 and Landon Malachowski and Vaughn Ockerman accepted the Bepalko Memorial Awards. Adventure began for F. G. Miller's Class of 2016 with the graduation ceremonies where valedictorian Rosie Sam accepted the Governor General's Award as well as the Bepalko/Sribney Scholarship and the Dr. Anne Wiegerinck Scholarship.